

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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JUSTIFY CONTINUES PREPARATION AT CHURCHILL DOWNS FOR BELMONT STAKES

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Friday, May 25, 2018) – Kentucky Derby (Grade I) and Preakness (GI) winner **Justify** continued his training Friday morning at Churchill Downs with a 1 ½-mile gallop under **Humberto Gomez** in preparation for the third jewel of racing's Triple Crown – the June 9 Belmont Stakes (GI).

"It was a very good morning," Hall of Fame trainer **Bob Baffert**'s chief assistant **Jimmy Barnes** said. "We did exactly what Bob wanted us to do. He galloped a little bit further today but he told us, once again, to take it easy with him. It's nice to gallop out there all alone. We wanted him to go an easy pace and he was able to do so without any traffic."

Also training Friday during the exclusive window from 7:30-7:40 a.m. (all times Eastern) for horses preparing for the Belmont Stakes were Preakness runner-up **Bravazo**, who galloped 1 ½ miles with exercise rider **Danielle Rosier** aboard for Hall of Fame trainer **D. Wayne Lukas**, and Preakness third **Tenfold**, who galloped about 1 ½ miles with **Angel Garcia** for fellow Hall of Fame conditioner **Steve Asmussen**.

"We can't just let Justify have it," Lukas joked after watching Bravazo inch closer to Justify during their gallops. "(Bravazo) bounced out of the Preakness in great shape. Justify is the real deal but my horse is very talented as well. I don't think there is any issue with him going 1 ½ miles. It's a test to every horse in the race because no one has done that before."

Baffert is expected to be at Churchill Downs later this weekend or early next week, according to Barnes. Justify is scheduled to fly to Belmont from Louisville on Wednesday, June 6.

The Belmont Stakes field could possibly be comprised of the following 11 horses (with trainer): **Bandua** (Dermot Weld), **Blended Citizen** (Doug O'Neill), Bravazo (D. Wayne Lukas), **Free Drop Billy** (Dale Romans), **Gronkowski** (Chad Brown), **Hofburg** (Bill Mott), Justify (Baffert), **Noble Indy** (Todd Pletcher), **Restoring Hope** (Baffert), Tenfold (Steve Asmussen) and **Vino Rosso** (Pletcher).

Only 12 horses have swept the Triple Crown: **Sir Barton** (1919), **Gallant Fox** (1930), **Omaha** (1935), **War Admiral** (1937), **Whirlaway** (1941), **Count Fleet** (1943), **Assault** (1946), **Citation** (1948), **Secretariat** (1973), **Seattle Slew** (1977), **Affirmed** (1978) and American Pharoah (2015).

Justify's Friday morning gallop can be viewed online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXaKmW7py5E>

Complementary Belmont Stakes past performances, courtesy of Brisnet.com, can be viewed online at <http://www.brisnet.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/BelmontStakes18.pdf>.

FANS CAN WATCH JUSTIFY TRAIN IN PERSON OR ONLINE – With unbeaten Triple Crown hopeful **Justify** and four other possible Belmont Stakes contenders stabled on the grounds, Churchill Downs Racetrack is conducting a special 7:30-7:40 a.m. (all times Eastern) training period for those horses.

Area horse racing fans are invited to watch those colts train from the first floor of the facility free of charge. Churchill Downs Racetrack will open its Paddock Gate entrance between 7-8 a.m. so the public can watch Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Justify along with rivals **Bravazo**, **Free Drop Billy**, **Restoring Hope** and **Tenfold** prepare for the 1 ½-mile third jewel of horse racing's Triple Crown – the 150th running of the \$1.5 million Belmont Stakes (Grade I) on Saturday, June 9.

Guests may park free of charge in the Orange and Black Lots outside of the Paddock Gate.

Video of the exercises will be shown on the Big Board and infield video screens at Churchill Downs. Those unable to attend can watch an online live stream of the daily exercises with commentary at www.KentuckyDerby.com/Works from 7:20-7:45 a.m., thanks to **TwinSpires.com**, the country's leading online and mobile betting platform and official betting partner of Churchill Downs, the Kentucky Derby and Breeders' Cup World Championships. Also, clips of the activity will be uploaded on the Kentucky Derby YouTube channel.

SEEKING THE SOUL ‘KEEPING THE BREEDERS’ CUP IN FOCUS’ – Charles Fipke’s homebred **Seeking the Soul** has been freshened since finishing fifth in the \$16 million Pegasus World Cup (Grade I) on Jan. 27 but the locally-based son of Perfect Soul (IRE) is keeping his sights on the Nov. 3 \$6 million Breeders’ Cup Classic at Churchill Downs, according to trainer **Dallas Stewart**.

“He’s doing really good,” Stewart said. “He’s only had one work back so far but he’s been training great. We’re keeping the Breeders’ Cup in focus and working backwards from there. We’ll try to have three starts before then if the timing works out.”

Seeking the Soul (18-5-3-5—\$1,401,162) won the 2017 Clark Handicap (GI) at Churchill Downs by a half-length over Good Samaritan on Nov. 24 prior to running in the Pegasus World Cup.

The 6-year-old horse is on target to breeze later this weekend.

MISS KENTUCKY SEEKS FIRST STAKES WIN IN SATURDAY’S GRADE III WINNING COLORS – Preston Madden’s four-time winner **Miss Kentucky** will attempt to earn her first stakes victory as the 3-1 co-second choice on the morning line in Saturday’s 15th running of the \$100,000 Winning Colors (GIII) at Churchill Downs.

“We entered her in the Prairie Rose Stakes at Prairie Meadows but scratched to keep her home for the Winning Colors,” trainer **Rusty Arnold II**’s assistant **Jack Bohannon** said. “I like our spot Saturday. She ran a really good race a couple weeks ago over this track and hopefully we can get some black-type in her past performances.”

The six-furlong Winning Colors, which honors the Hall of Fame filly that prevailed against colts in the 1988 Kentucky Derby, is an annual Memorial Day weekend fixture and one of two stakes events on Saturday’s 11-race program. Churchill Downs’ first race is 12:45 p.m. (all times Eastern). The Winning Colors goes as Race 10 at approximately 5:26 p.m. and the sixth running of the \$70,000-added Keertana Overnight Stakes, a 1 ½-mile grass marathon for fillies and mares, is the third race at approximately 1:43 p.m.

Miss Kentucky (11-4-1-0—\$152,142) scored a narrow victory on April 28 at Churchill Downs in a six-furlong allowance race. The 4-year-old daughter of Blame, out of Madden’s four-time winning mare Champagne Taste, will break form Post 5 with Churchill Downs’ leading rider **Brian Hernandez Jr.** aboard.

The Winning Colors field from the rail out (with jockeys, assigned weights and morning line odds): **Brave Daisey** (Rogelio Miranda, 116 pounds, 20-1); **Golden Mischief** (Florent Geroux, 120, 2-1); **Pinch Hit** (Robby Albarado, 120, 4-1); **Treble** (Ricardo Santana Jr., 122, 3-1); Miss Kentucky (Hernandez, 120, 3-1); and **Golden Domer** (Corey Lanerie, 120, 4-1).

DARING DUCHESS HEAVY 4-5 MORNING LINE FAVORITE IN KEERTANA – Ken and Sarah Ramsey’s multiple stakes-winning mare **Daring Duchess** leads a field of seven fillies and mares as the 4-5 morning line favorite in Saturday’s sixth running of the \$70,000-added Keertana Overnight Stakes at 1 ½ miles on Churchill Downs’ Matt Winn Turf Course.

The Keertana was named for **Barbara Hunter**’s homebred **Keertana**, who won four of her nine starts at Churchill Downs, including a nose triumph over males in the \$111,200 Louisville Handicap (Grade III) in 2011.

A former \$35,000 claim in 2016 for the Ramseys and trainer **Mike Maker**, Daring Duchess won the 2017 Keertana by three lengths. Jockey **Corey Lanerie** has the call on the five-time winner and will break from Post 2.

The field for the Keertana, which goes as Race 3 at approximately 1:43 p.m. (all times Eastern): **Sunday Strait** (Sammy Camacho Jr., 50-1); Daring Duchess (Lanerie, 4-5); **Araminta** (Ricardo Santana Jr., 10-1); **Creative Thinking** (Adam Beschizza, 4-1); **Tweety Show** (James Graham, 15-1); **La Manta Gris** (Brian Hernandez Jr., 7-2) and **Galilea** (Robby Albarado, 8-1). All horses will carry 121 pounds.

DOWN THE STRETCH – Racing continues Friday at Churchill Downs with a nine-race program that gets underway at 12:45 p.m. (all times Eastern). Friday’s card is highlighted by a \$471,168 carryover in the 20-cent Single 6 Jackpot that begins in Race 4 with a scheduled post time of 2:13 p.m. Also, there is a \$3,126 carryover in the \$1 Super Hi-5 in Race 9 at 4:55 p.m. ... Racing continues through Monday this week at Churchill Downs with a 12:45 p.m. first post each day. In celebration of Memorial Day on Monday, all active and retired members of the United States armed forces will be admitted free of charge. Also, Churchill Downs’ bugler **Steve Buttleman** will perform patriotic melodies following the “Call to the Post” for each race. ... **“Inside Churchill Downs”** will air Friday at 6 p.m. on **ESPN 680/105.7**. The one-hour horse racing radio show is co-hosted by Churchill Downs Racetrack’s **John Asher**, **Darren Rogers** and **Kevin Kerstein** and will feature Hall of Fame trainer **Bob Baffert**’s assistant **Jimmy Barnes** and Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI) winning trainer **Brad Cox**. Those outside the Louisville radio market can listen live online at <http://www.espnlouisville.com/> or via podcast on the station’s website or <https://soundcloud.com/>.

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